

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 RSC-01 AID-05 EB-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10

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TAGS: EAGR, EAID, FAO

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD PROGRAM INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE,
26TH SESSION, SUMMARY REPORT

FROM DELEGATION IGC WFP

REF : A) ROME 14776

B) ROME 14817

C) ROME 14983

1. IGC-26 AT FAO HEADQUARTERS, ROME, OCTOBER 24-31 WAS
ATTENDED BY ALL 24 MEMBERS, 33 COUNTRY OBSERVERS FROM
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
AND THE HOLY SEE. STATEMENTS MADE IN INITIAL
MEETING REPORTED FIRST REFTEL.

2. WIDENING GAP BETWEEN WFP COMMODITY RESOURCES AND
INCREASING NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS NOTED AND
HOPE EXPRESSED TO MEET AND EVEN EXCEED \$440 MILLION MINIMUM
PLEDGE TARGET. DONORS WERE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW LEAD OF
SAUDI ARABIA IN MAKING SUBSTANTIAL CASH PLEDGES. IGC
AUTHORIZED UP TO \$3.1 MILLION FROM PROGRAM FUNDS IN ORDER
TO UTILIZE FOOD AID CONVENTION GRAINS FOR WHICH INADEQUATE
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FREIGHT CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED. RE STUDY OF WAYS AND

MEANS TO INSULATE WFP FROM FLUCTUATION OF WORLD FOOD PRICES, IGC DECIDED TO POSTPONE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP AND EXECDIR WAS ASKED TO PREPARE PAPER FOR NEXT SESSION. TO KEEP STATUS OF BOTH RESOURCES AND FINANCES UP TO DATE, SECRETARIAT REPORTED THAT NEW COMPUTER PROGRAM WAS BEING WORKED OUT AND PROBABLY WOULD BE INTRODUCED 1 JANUARY 1975.

3. IGC CONSIDERED SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS TO INCREASE ANNUAL ALLOCATION FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS FROM \$10 TO \$15 MILLION, INCLUDING CY 1974. SOME DELEGATIONS SPOKE IN FAVOR OF INCREASING EMERGENCY SET-ASIDE TO \$20 MILLION. THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON AD HOC INCREASE TO 15 MILLION IN 1974 AND 1975 WITH CONSIDERATION AT NEXT IGC SESSION OF AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS TO REMOVE QUANTITY PROVISIONS AND ALLOW IGC TO SET LIMIT.

4. COMMITTEE WAS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH REPORT ON EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF SPECIAL REPORT OFFERED ON WFP ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL.

5. DURING DISCUSSION ON ACTIONS OF INTEREST TO THE PROGRAM TAKEN SINCE 25TH SESSION, NOTE WAS MADE OF FOLLOWING: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IN 1975; ROLE OF WFP IN IMPLEMENTING UN RESOLUTIONS 3201 AND 3202 (NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER); FUTURE ROLE OF WFP AS RESULT OF WFC; AND WFP APPROACHES TO POTENTIAL DONORS AMONG OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES. SECRETARIAT IS TO PREPARE DOCUMENTS ON FIRST TWO OF ABOVE SUBJECTS FOR IGC-27.

6. FIVE PROJECTS FOR IGC APPROVAL WERE DISCUSSED AND APPROVED. COMMITMENTS TO EXPANDED PROJECTS WILL BE LIMITED TO TWO YEARS AND ANY FURTHER EXTENSIONS CAREFULLY STUDIED. ABOUT 85 PERCENT OF NEW COMMITMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AREAS HIT BY DISASTERS, AND MOST SEVERELY Affected COUNTRIES (MSAS).

7. TWENTY-FIVE PROJECTS APPROVED BY ED WERE NOTED. SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO CERTAIN PROJECTS WHICH INCLUDED NUTRITIONAL TRAINING, PROGRESSION FROM EMERGENCY TO UNCLASSIFIED

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REGULAR DEVELOPMENT, AND COOPERATION WITH UNHCR IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENT. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION RAISED ABOUT RECONSTRUCTION OF QUANG-TRI PROVINCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM, SECRETARIAT STATED THAT SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM PRG OR NVN WOULD BE CONSIDERED IF RECEIVED.

8. SIXTEEN PROGRESS REPORTS ON APPROVED PROJECTS WERE CONSIDERED. IT WAS NOTED THAT MANY OF THE PROJECTS HAD BEEN

POSTPONED OR CANCELED Owing TO INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES.
SECRETARIAT POINTED OUT THAT ACTIVITIES IN MORE AFFLUENT
COUNTRIES WERE BEING PHASED OUT AND EFFORTS CONCENTRATED IN
LESS FORTUNATE AREAS.

9. WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF INTERIM EVALUATION AND
TERMINAL REPORTS COVERED SEVERAL ASPECTS OF GENERAL VALUE
CONCERNING THESE REPORTS AND PROJECTS THEY COVERED. USDEL
PRESSED FOR MORE ADEQUATE TIME FOR COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS
EVALUATION AND PROJECT REPORTS IN GENERAL, WHICH ARE HEART
OF WFP ACTIVITIES.

10. ITEM 12, APPROACH TO EVALUATION OF WFP DEVELOPMENT AID,
ITEM 13, GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING
PROJECTS, AND ITEM 15, WFP EXPERIENCE RE ACCEPTABILITY OF
COMMODITES, WERE DEFERRED UNTIL IGC-27. USDEL EXPRESSED
CONCERN OVER POSTPONEMENT OF SUCH IMPORTANT ITEMS, AND
OTHER COMMENTS INDICATED PROBABLE FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS AT
NEXT SESSION.

11. QUASI-EMERGENCY PROCEDURE WAS RENAMED QUICK ACTION
PROCEDURE AND SYSTEM WAS GIVEN PERMANENT STATUS BY STRONG
MAJORITY PREFERENCE. REVIEW OF CERTAIN ASPECTS, INCLUDING
CRITERIA FOR ADOPTING THIS PROCEDURE AND NEED FOR BETTER
CONSULTATION ON PROJECTS, IS TO BE HELD IN 1975.

12. CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,
POSSIBILITY OF WFP PROVISION OF CAPITAL GOODS AND OTHER
NON-FOOD AID WAS DISCUSSED. SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE PAPER
ON PROVIDING NON-FOOD INPUTS FOR THESE COUNTRIES.

13. DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL REPORT OF ED ON TRANSPORTATION
CONCERNED INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND INCREASING SHIPMENT COSTS.
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US AND OTHER DELEGATIONS CALLED FOR IMPROVED STATISTICS
ON CARRIAGE OF WFP COMMODITIES BY SHIPS AND USDEL RAISED
QUESTION OF COST/BENEFIT STUDY OF COMPUTERIZED SHIPMENT
INFO SYSTEM.

14. ITEM 18, COOPERATION BETWEEN WFP AND OAU/AFRICAN
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN WFP GENERAL
REGS, WAS FULLY REPORTED IN SECOND AND THIRD REFTELS.
PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION FOR WFP TO EXTEND FOOD AID ON REGULAR
BASIS THROUGH OAU TO PEOPLES IN BOTH LIBERATED AND NON-
LIBERATED AREAS IS BEING SUBMITTED TO FAO COUNCIL AND
ECOSOC FOR APPROVAL. US AND UK RESERVED THEIR POSITIONS.

15. PROPOSAL OF INTRODUCTION OF ARABIC AS WORKING
LANGUAGE IN WFP WAS APPROVED, ALTHOUGH GERMAN AND US DELS

SPOKE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF PAYMENT OF COSTS OF ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE BY INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS.

16. OWING TO ARDUOUS DISCUSSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF 26TH SESSION, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING LEVEL OF EMERGENCY FUND, SESSION WAS EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 31 AND ENDED LATE THAT MORNING. IGC-27 WAS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 17 TO 25, 1975, WITH DUE REGARD TO INTEREST IN DEEPER DISCUSSION OF PROJECTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEMS. IGC-28 WAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 29 SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 3, 1975. VOLPE

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